

**20 October 2008**

## **ICO statement on the Communications Data Bill**

A spokesperson for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) said:

"This summer the Information Commissioner called for a public debate on government proposals for the state to retain citizens' internet and phone records. The Commissioner warned that it is likely that such a scheme would be a step too far for the British way of life. Creating huge databases containing personal information is never a risk-free option as it is not possible to fully eliminate the danger that the data will fall into the wrong hands. It is therefore of paramount importance that proposals threatening such intrusion into our lives are fully debated. We welcome the fact that the government intends to fully consult the public on any scheme it brings forward. Precise details of the plans are unclear at this stage; the ICO will be studying the proposals once published and responding to the Government's consultation in due course."

**For all media enquires, please contact the ICO press office on 0207 025 7580.**